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Narrator**

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Interviewer**

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Video Photography**

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At the Kam Wah Chung Interpretive Center
John Day, Oregon**

Marilyn Stout -MS
Janet Worthington -JW
Gary Worthington -GW

MS: During World War I my grandmother had a milk route, except for my mother, all adults came down with the flu. They were told nothing could be done for them. My mother visited with Doc Hay. He told her to take a silver dollar and rub their backs with it until the blood came to the surface. He gave her a powder that she was to moisten and then rub it on their backs. Everyone recovered. My mother was fortunate not to come down with the flu, even though she was in nearly every home with the milk.

Mother was taken to Doc Hay's with her sister in-law and a close friend; they fabricated a story to get her to get there. He took my mother's pulse and told her and the lady she was PG two months. That is what they wanted to know, so all had a laugh.

When I was a baby, mother burned her leg on a wood cook stove. The burn was about the size of a dollar. In a short time it became inflamed. She asked a neighbor lady what was wrong with her leg. Mrs. Destin recognized it as blood poisoning. She was rushed to Doctor Hay's for his treatment. He told her to boil onions and mix the powder he gave her with the onion juice and make a poultice and apply it to the burned area. Mother was never off her feet and the burned cleared in a few days, however all was left was the scar.

After he became blind Doc Hay recognized you by your voice. That's all I have.

JW: Could I ask you some questions?

MS: Yeah.

JW: Did you visit Doc Hay in Kam Wah Chung or did you go to the store in Kam Wah Chung?

MS: Oh, I went down there, but, you know, that was during the Depression and I can't ah...I can't remember where anything was placed or anything like that, but I went there.

JW: You went to the store?

MS: Yeah.

JW: Do you remember how you felt or what the place was like, generally?

MS: I have heard different one's say it was scary to them, but it wasn't to me.

JW: And why was that?

MS: I guess I was looking to the anticipation of getting candy and that sort of thing and ah...it never bothered me.

JW: Did you get candy every time?

MS: Every time I went there. [Laughing]

JW: What kind of candy? Do you—

MS: It was a candy bar.

JW: Oh, a candy bar?

MS: Candy bar, Yeah.

JW: What was it like?

MS: Well, I can remember it was real good!

JW: Was it? [Laughing]

MS: But, candy wasn't something that was plentiful.

JW: That's right.

MS: All I can recall of it was the center, and as I told you, it was like marshmallow cream that we have now.

JW: And it was yellow, you say?

MS: kind of yellowish color, uh-huh. Yeah, that's all I can remember of it.

JW: Do you remember anything about the place? Do you recall how it smelled inside the—

MS: No.

JW: How old were you when you would go.

MS: Um...well, sometimes I was a preschooler and as time went on I went in the thirties.

JW: Okay.

MS: Yeah, I was a teenager.

JW: Do you remember Doc Hay how he looked...what kind of...how tall was he? Could you describe him for me, please?

MS: It seems to me like he probably was about the tall of your...well...no...I don't think he was quite as tall as your husband.

GW: I'm 5'10"

MS: And he ah...he looked just like an elderly person to me, yeah.

JW: What characteristics of an elderly person did he have?

MS: Um...well...you know my...as I recall when I was a teenager...or when I was a kid...um...older people...I just never thought I would get that old and they were just...ah...just older people...you know. [Both laughing] It seems like he was ah...he was friendly as I recall to me...he was friendly, but, yet a little aloof, you know, he was a little distant, yeah. But, I marveled at that he could read your pulse and tell you how you were feeling or whatever.

JW: Do you remember anything about the way he looked, anything about his hands, or his—

MS: No.

JW: Did he have whiskers?

MS: No, I don't remember that.

JW: Okay. When you would go to the store, you would go into the building; do you remember anything about the outside of the building?

MS: As I recall, it was very similar to what it is now, but there were more buildings, but I can't tell you exactly where they were and how high they were or anything. I can't remember that.

JW: But, there were other buildings around Kam Wah Chung?

MS: Other buildings, yes.

JW: Were there other people in the store...in to see the doctor...who would go to see him?

MS: It seems to me like there were more Chinese.

JW: Where there?

MS: Yeah, as I say, when I was a kid going to school in Canyon, there were Chinese in Canyon.

JW: Were there?

MS: Yeah.

JW: A good many?

MS: No, there was probably half a dozen or so.

JW: Oh, were there?

MS: Yeah.

JW: And, what did they do in Canyon City? Were there any businesses—

MS: They...there service...um...they didn't do anything, as I recall, anymore at that time, but they did have a Chinese laundry there and different services, yeah. Besides their mining, you know.

JW: Did other people in your family go to see Doc Hay besides your mother? Who all would go to see him?

MS: My dad would go, but they had other stories, but I didn't...I didn't remember them. These were the ones that impressed me. Especially, saving my mothers...my grandparents and the other adults in that family. You know, because the white doctors had given them up.

JW: Oh, they had?

MS: Uh-huh...yeah...and he was the last resort.

JW: Oh, he was?

MS: Yeah, yeah.

JW: So, did many people feel that way about Doc Hay that he was...if everything else failed you would go to—

MS: I think so...he was...yeah...a lot of people went to him. Now, that's the way I feel.

JW: Did you know Lung On, his partner? Did you ever see him or—

MS: Um...I was trying to think of this Chinese that had...was interested in the...had interest in the Chevrolet garage and I think that was his partner...but he was...if that is true, he was a well-dressed gentlemen.

JW: Was he?

MS: He always wore a suite or he always looked very neat.

JW: Did he?

MS: Oh, Yeah, if that is...if that was his partner, yeah.

JW: I believe so. He did own a garage.

MS: Yeah...well, he was well dressed always.

JW: Did you hear anything else about him? We haven't found much about him.

MS: I know that Oscar Hoverson [name unclear] was executor of his estate. [Both laugh] and all of that family is gone. If you wanted to know more about that you might call...contact Joy Teague...she was a cousin...Joy Teague. She might be able to give you some information on him. Since Oscar, that was her uncle by marriage, since he had the...he was the executor of his estate...uh-huh.

JW: When the museum was opened do you...what do you recall about the finding...this place had been closed down for twenty years.

MS: I won't go into that. I've heard gossip. I won't go into it.

JW: Okay. But, have you heard about whether or not the place...when they...when they opened it again had been vandalized or did kids get in there...and do—

MS: I've heard stories about it, but I can't...I won't relate them, because I don't know if they are true or not.

JW: Okay, okay. That's just fine. How about any items or pictures from the store, have you seen any of those? Does anybody that you know have some pictures—

MS: We don't, for the simple reason; my folks lost everything by fire in March of '46' and all their pictures and everything burned up. There's a possibility the museum in Canyon, but a lot of the pictures have disappeared there too...um...there might be in the museum in Canyon, but I can't vouch for that.

JW: Is there anything else you would like to tell us about Doc Hay and Kam Wah Chung and your experiences in—

MS: I can tell you a story, but I don't want it recorded.

JW: Okay. We'll save that then, that will be later.

MS: I can't think anything else only, as I say, my mother and dad look forward to the Chinese New Years every year.

JW: Oh, would you tell us about that?

MS: Well, all I can remember they look forward to it and it was a big celebration, because there were a lot of Chinese and I think it was almost as big as the fair.

JW: Oh, my.

MS: Yeah, because they looked forward to it and I think they probably got a lot of free candy too, you know. [Both laugh]

JW: Did they tell you about some of the activities? Was there a feast?

MS: Yeah, they did, but I don't recall what they were.

JW: This was just very important to them?

MS: Yeah, it was just important to them, because, you see there wasn't very much for kids' celebrations and that sort of thing for kids those days they worked, you know...and...um...so it was '62'...that was a big celebration in latter years...ah...from '22' on, but they were adults then. At Christmas time they always had a basket social and that sort of thing...they don't do anymore.

JW: Anything else you'd like to tell us about?

MS: Can't think of anything else.

JW: Okay, thank you very much. We really appreciate you coming.

GW: End of interview